

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of surface cross-linking a superabsorbent polymer comprising the steps of:

(a) providing superabsorbent polymer particles;

(b) forming a surface-crosslinker composition comprising ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, water, and 20 to 35 wt% of 1,3-propanediol as a cosolvent;

(c) applying the solution of (b) to the surfaces of (a) to provide surface-treated superabsorbent polymer particles; and

(d) heating the surface-treated superabsorbent polymer particles at 25°C to 150°C for 15 to 180 minutes to form surface crosslinks in the vicinity of the surface of the surface-treated superabsorbent polymer particles,

wherein the amount of ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether in (b) is at least 5 wt% less than the ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether used when propylene glycol is a cosolvent to achieve a predetermined degree of surface crosslinking.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) is performed prior to step (d).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein steps (c) and (d) are performed simultaneously.

4. (Currently amended) The method of ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 3 wherein the amount of ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether in (b) is at least 10 wt% less than the ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether used when propylene glycol is used as a cosolvent to achieve a predetermined degree of surface crosslinking.

5. (Currently amended) The method of ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 4 wherein the amount of ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether in (b) is 5 wt% to 25 wt% less than the ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether used when propylene glycol is used as a cosolvent to achieve a predetermined degree of surface crosslinking.

6. (Currently amended) The method of ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 5 wherein the surface-cross-linking solution comprises 25 to 30 wt% of the 1,3-propanediol.

7. (Currently amended) The method of ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 6 wherein the surface-cross-linking solution is free of propylene glycol.

8. (Currently amended) The method of ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 7 wherein the surface-cross-linker solution consists essentially of ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, water, and 1,3-propanediol.

9. (Currently amended) The method of ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 8 wherein the surface cross-links are formed by essentially only the ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether.

10. (Currently amended) The method of ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 9 wherein the superabsorbent polymer comprises a neutralized lightly crosslinked acrylic-type resin containing at least 10% acidic monomer units selected from the group consisting of a carboxylate, sulfonate, sulfate, and phosphate group.

11. (Currently amended) The method of ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 10 wherein the superabsorbent polymer comprises polyacrylic acid neutralized 50 to 100 mole percent.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Surface-crosslinked~~
A surface-crosslinked superabsorbent polymer prepared by the method of ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 11.